

School Nutrition Programs

Did you know?

Schools in Montana serve 80,000 lunches and 24,000 breakfasts every day.

Montana School Nutrition Programs administers eight federal programs:

1. National School Lunch
2. School Breakfast
3. Special Milk
4. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable
5. Afterschool Snack
6. Summer Food Service
7. USDA Foods
8. Montana Team Nutrition located at Montana State University, Bozeman

And one state program:

Cooperative Food Purchase



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Distributed by:
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Montana Office of
Public Instruction

School Nutrition Programs

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*We think food because
kids can't think without it!*

Mission:

To ensure schools provide nutritious meals and promote healthy lifestyles through collaborative education and training, and administration of the USDA School Nutrition Programs.



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Our School Nutrition Programs

National School Lunch and Breakfast Program provides children meals that meet USDA nutrition guidelines and supports both academic achievement and health during the school day. In Montana, half of the lunch meals and two thirds of the breakfast meals are served to children free or at a reduced price, based on their family's household income.

The Special Milk Program provides milk to children in schools who do not participate in other federal meal service programs.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides free fresh fruits and vegetables and nutrition education to children in participating elementary schools throughout the school day.

The Afterschool Snack Program provides reimbursement for snacks to children who participate in afterschool educational or enrichment programs in an organized, structured and supervised environment.

The Summer Food Service Program provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need throughout the summer months.

The USDA Foods Program provides healthful foods such as lean meats, low-sodium vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program.

The Montana Team Nutrition Program is the training arm for school nutrition programs and builds support for healthier school environments through food service training, nutrition education and implementation of the school wellness policy.

The Cooperative Food Purchase Program provides lower prices to schools on commonly used food items through high volume purchasing. This program allows small school districts to take advantage of substantial cost savings.



Priorities for School Nutrition Programs

A Path to Ending Childhood Hunger Increasing Program Access and Participation

Making it easier for children to enroll in free school meals through Direct Certification

- Allows schools to enroll children in free school meals based on their household's participation in other assistance programs.

Expanding access and participation in School Breakfast

- Working toward breakfast participation in all Montana schools
- Promoting expanded service options such as Breakfast in the Classroom and Grab 'n' Go breakfast to reach more children

Feeding kids when school is out through the Summer Food Service Program

- Cultivating new programs through stronger outreach efforts
- Increasing participation through marketing
- Providing low-cost, fun activity ideas to attract children to sites

Supporting Student Wellness

Promoting Health and Reducing Childhood Obesity

Ensuring Nutrient Rich School Meals

- Training and technical assistance for healthy school meals and snacks
- HealthierUS School Challenge and Healthier Montana Menu Challenge
- Peer mentoring and distribution of mini grants

Increasing Access to Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

- Schools can receive high quality fresh fruits and vegetables through USDA Foods Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at high poverty schools

Expanding Farm to School Programs

- Enhancing local food procurement opportunities for school meals
- Strengthening nutrition education through school gardens
- Building community partnerships with local food fundraisers

Ensuring Food Safety

- Working with school food service managers to develop school HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) plans
- Supporting food safety training with state and local partners in public health, extension service, and the food industry

